

**NEW DISTRIBUTION AND HOST PLANT RECORDS FOR BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) IN NEW SOUTH WALES**C.J. MULLER<sup>1</sup> and D. HALL<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>PO Box 228, Dural, NSW 2158<sup>2</sup>6 Rule St, Cambridge Park, NSW 2747**Abstract**

New distribution records in New South Wales are given for *Acrodipsas myrmecophila* (Waterhouse & Lyell), *Hypochrysops delicia delicia* Hewitson and *Hypochrysops byzoz byzoz* (Boisduval). New food plant records are given for *Hesperilla crypsargyra hopsoni* Waterhouse, *Tisiphone abeona abeona* (Donovan), *Hypochrysops delicia delicia* Hewitson, *Hypochrysops cyane* (Waterhouse & Lyell) and *Ogyris genoveva gela* Waterhouse.

**New records***Hesperilla crypsargyra hopsoni* Waterhouse

Pupae of this species were collected in December, January and March at Barrington Tops, mainly on *Gahnia sieberana* Kunst. (Cyperaceae) but also on *G. grandis* ST. Blake, together with *Hesperilla idothea idothea* (Miskin). *G. grandis* has not been recorded previously as a host plant for this taxon.

*Tisiphone abeona abeona* (Donovan)

Several adults were reared from larvae collected on *Gahnia subaequiglumis* ST. Blake near Clarence and Blackheath in the Blue Mountains. Conroy (1971) and Common and Waterhouse (1981) recorded *G. sieberana*, *G. melanocarpa* R. Br., *G. clarkei* Benl. and *G. erythrocarpa* R. Br. as hosts of this species. In addition, Braby (1990) listed *G. radula* (R. Br.) as a host plant for *T. a. albifascia* Waterhouse in Victoria and Muller (1992) recorded *G. grandis* as a host plant for *T. a. regalis* Waterhouse at Barrington Tops.

*Acrodipsas myrmecophila* (Waterhouse & Lyell)

Both sexes of this species were collected on a hilltop near Bell, together with the more common *A. cuprea* (Sands) and *A. brisbanensis brisbanensis* (Miskin). Additional males were taken near Blackheath and Mt Victoria. These are the first records of this species from the Blue Mts.

*Hypochrysops delicia delicia* Hewitson

Specimens of this subspecies were collected at Merimbula and Pambula on the far south coast of New South Wales. These records provide a new southern limit for this taxon. Adults of both sexes from these localities fall well within the range of variation of long series of this subspecies examined from Sydney. Adults were reared also from eggs collected on *Acacia parramattensis* Tind. at Kurrajong. This is a new host plant record for *H. delicia*.

*Hypochrysops cyane* (Waterhouse & Lyell)

Numerous adults were reared from eggs and first instar larvae collected on *Eucalyptus moluccana* Roxb. near Penrith. Adults were collected from early October to mid-November and from late January to early April but in

captivity emerged in most months. Adults are very inconspicuous and appear to be active only on hot, sunny and calm afternoons. Males especially fly high and fast, usually well over 10 m above the ground. No larger larvae and pupae were located in the wild, despite extensive searching. Pupae are small and elongate and it is assumed that they occur with mature larvae in borer holes deep within the host trees. An unidentified scale insect usually is present locally on the host plant and attracts attendant *Iridomyrmex* ants which, in turn, apparently encourage gravid females to oviposit. *Angophora costata* (Gaertn.) Domin. was the only previously recorded host for this species (Macqueen 1965).

#### *Hypochrysops byzos byzos* (Boisduval)

A male of this species was reared from eggs taken near Rylstone, providing a new western record in New South Wales.

#### *Ogyris genoveva gela* Waterhouse

A number of adults were reared from pupae collected at Galston, Berrilee and Hornsby (all north-west suburbs of Sydney) on *Muellerina eucalyptoides* Barlow, together with *O. ianthis* Waterhouse and *O. abrota* Westwood & Hewitson. This is a new host plant for this species. Pupae of *O. genoveva* were usually found at the base of the mistletoe host trees (*Eucalyptus punctata* DC., *Corymbia eximia* Schauer and *C. gumnifera* (Sol. ex Gaertner) Hochr. in summer and autumn, while in spring they were located under bark and in crevasses on the mistletoe clump. This may be due to the ground being still damp from the higher winter precipitation while in summer it is comparatively dry.

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